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LENOX
MASSACHUSETTS

BICENTENNIAL
1767 1967

HISTORICAL SOUVENIR
and
OFFICIAL PROGRAM

r974.412
Lenox

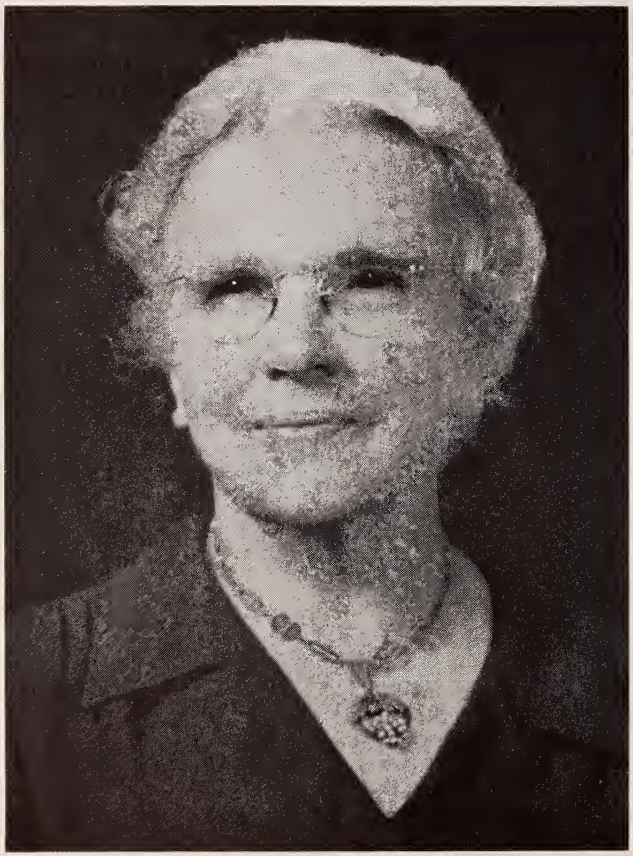
DEDICATION

This Book is respectfully dedicated

by the

Lenox Shakespeare Club

to



FLORENCE DYER ROGERS

who, in 1905, helped to found the Club, and was the sole survivor to celebrate its 60th Anniversary

Old Town Hall

New Town Hall

Old St. Anne's

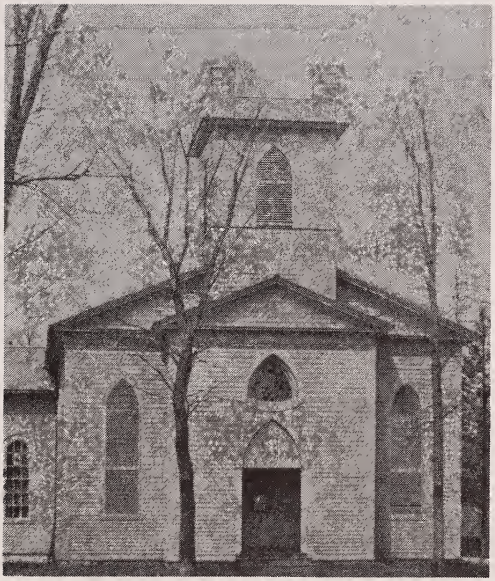
New St. Anne's

Paterson Monument (1892)

Lenox in Snowtime

Church-on-the-Hill (old)

Church-on-theHill (now)



Trinity Church, (old)

Trinity Church, (now)

St. Vincent de Paul

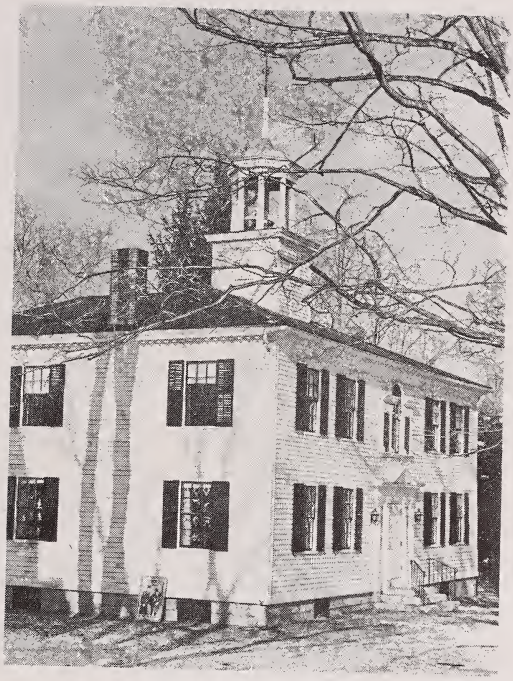
St. Helena's

Old Lenox Club

Present Community Center

Bellefontaine

Our Lady of Mercy Seminary



Old Academy 1803

Lenox Library

Westinghouse

Foxhollow School

Old Shadowbrook

Shadowbrook, (new)

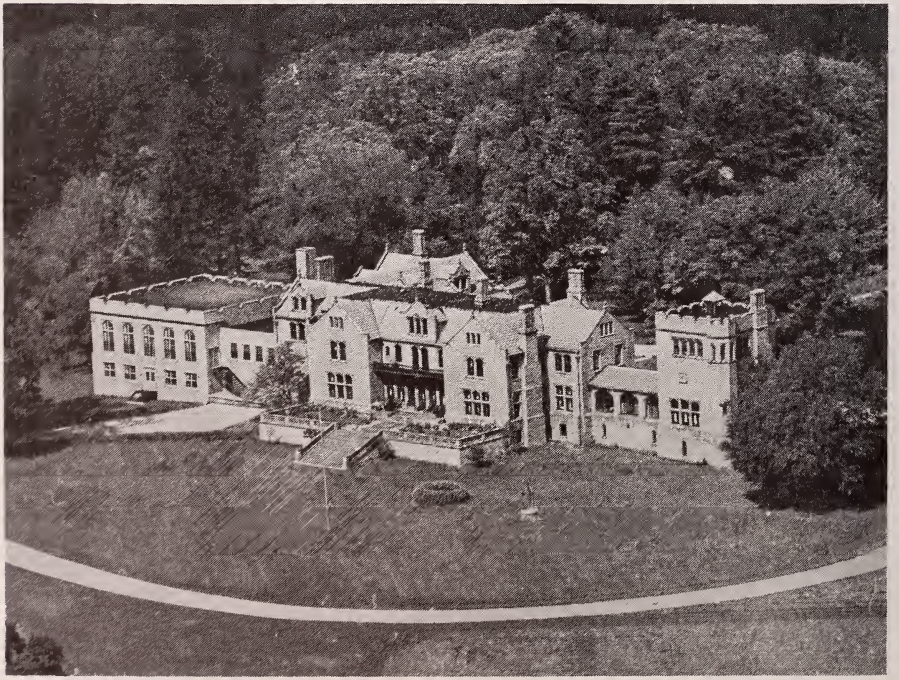
Frelinghuysen House (1890)

Lenox School, (now)

Fahnstock Estate

Eastover, (now)

John Sloane Estate



Cranwell School, present

Patterson Villa

Blantyre, (now)

Stonover, (old)

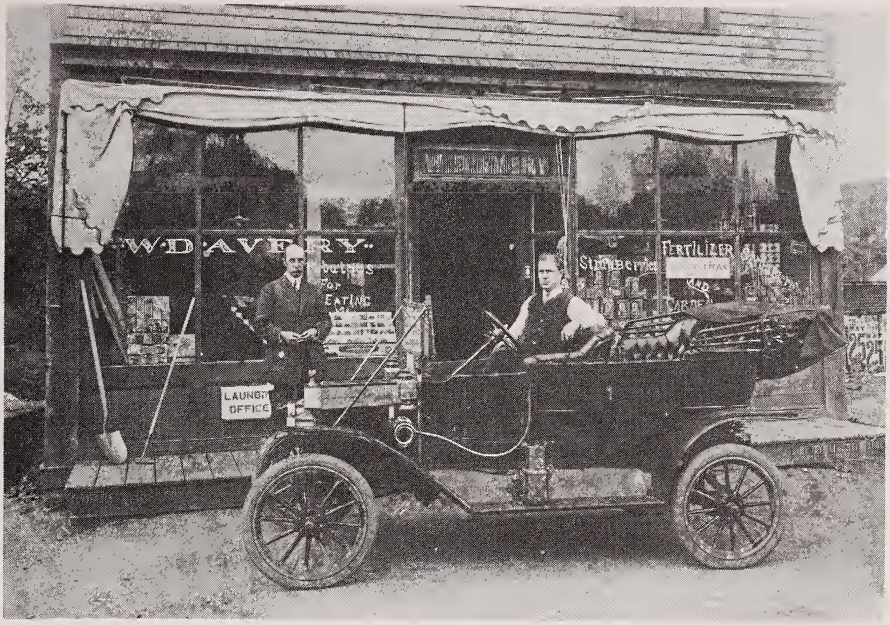
Stonover, (now)

Wheatleigh

Wheatleigh (Music Inn)

Peters Block (Old Savings Bank)

Lenox Savings Bank, (now)



Avery's Store, Lenoxdale

Crystal Street, Lenoxdale

1767 - - - PROGRAM

FEBRUARY 26–

Sunday, 200th Anniversary Incorporation of Lenox.

First Day Covers, Picturing Church on the Hill.

MARCH 11–

Saturday, Town Hall, 2:00 P.M. Re-Creation of First Town Meeting at Log Cabin of Israel Dewey, East Street. Sponsored by Past Selectmen.

JUNE 3–

Saturday, Bicentennial Ball to be held at the Curtis Hotel.

JUNE 18–

Services of Worship Based on Worship as it Was Held in This Community 200 Years Ago in Lenox.

Date uncertain

High School play.

OF EVENTS - - - 1967

JUNE 25—

Sunday, 10:30 A.M. Services In All Churches As Held In This Community 200 Years Ago.

2.00 P. M. Mammoth Bi Centennial Parade, With Name Bands and Floats Starting at Church on the Hill and disbanding at Lee Road and Walker.

George Bisacca, Marshal

AUGUST 19 and 20—

Bicentennial Flower Show Sponsored by Lenox Garden Club. Lenox Grange and Lenox Horticultural Society Saturday 3:00 P.M. and Sunday 1:00 P.M.

Information About Other Program Events Will be Published in the *Berkshire Eagle* and Carried by Local Radio Stations

Old Bull Block (before fire)

Amoskeag Engine Horse Drawn Pumper

American La France

Hutch

Lenox Engine No. 5 (1966)

Corner Main and Housatonic Streets (1900)

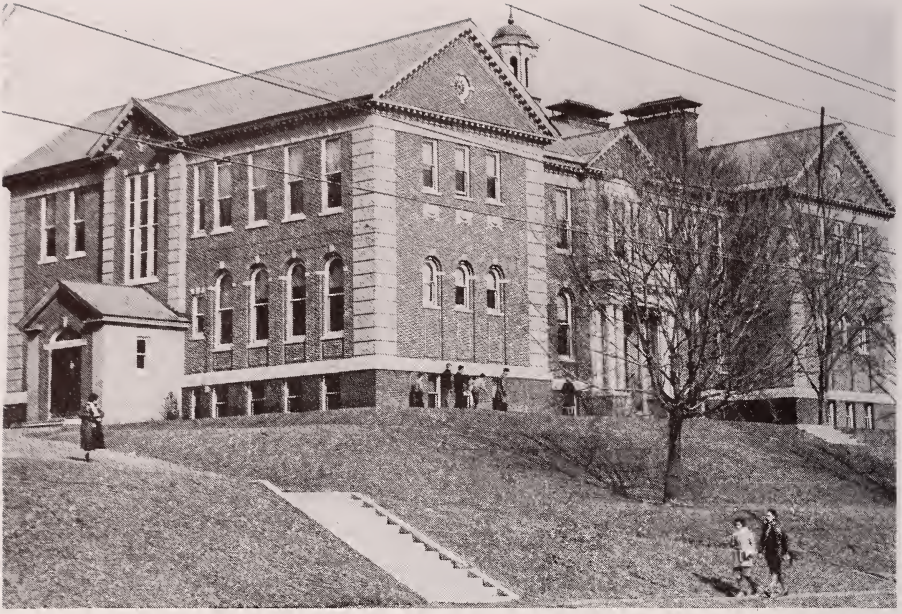
Hagyard Corner, (present)

Aspinwall Hotel (1920)

Curtis Hotel

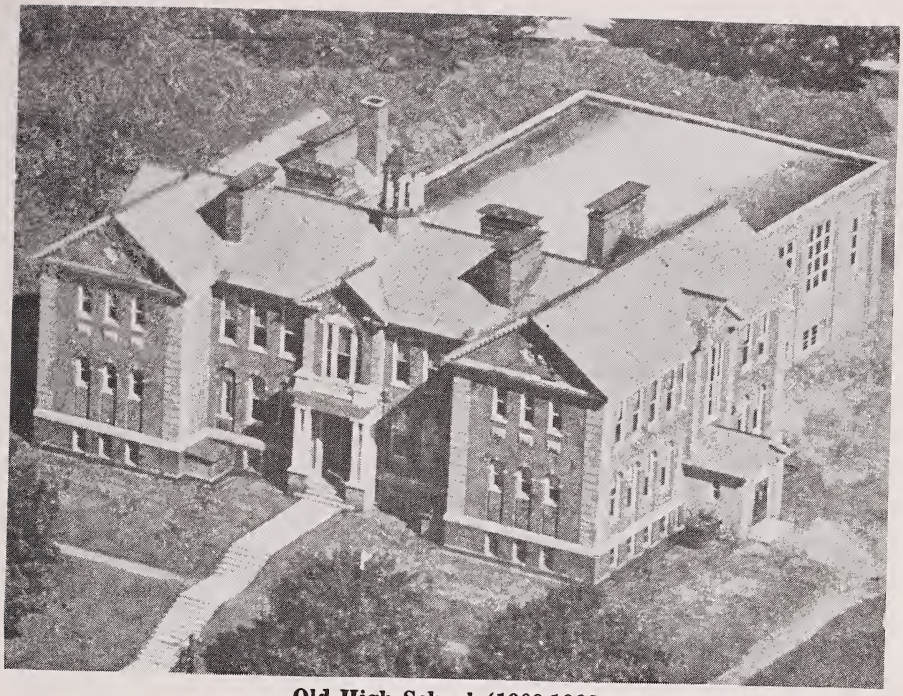
Center School (1895)

Center School (1966)



Lenox Elementary School (1966)

Morris School (1961)

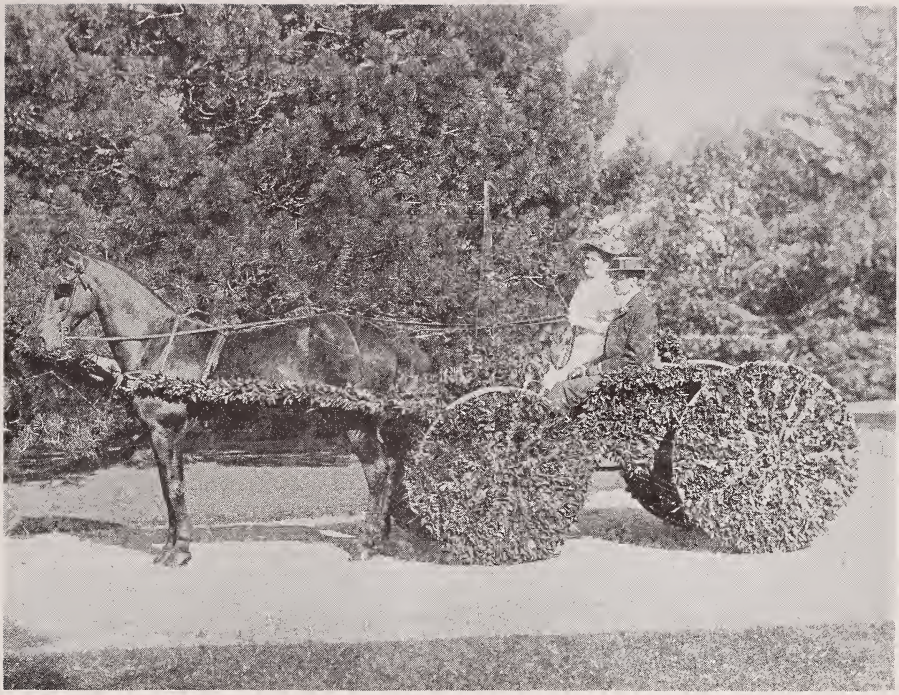


Old High School (1909-1966)

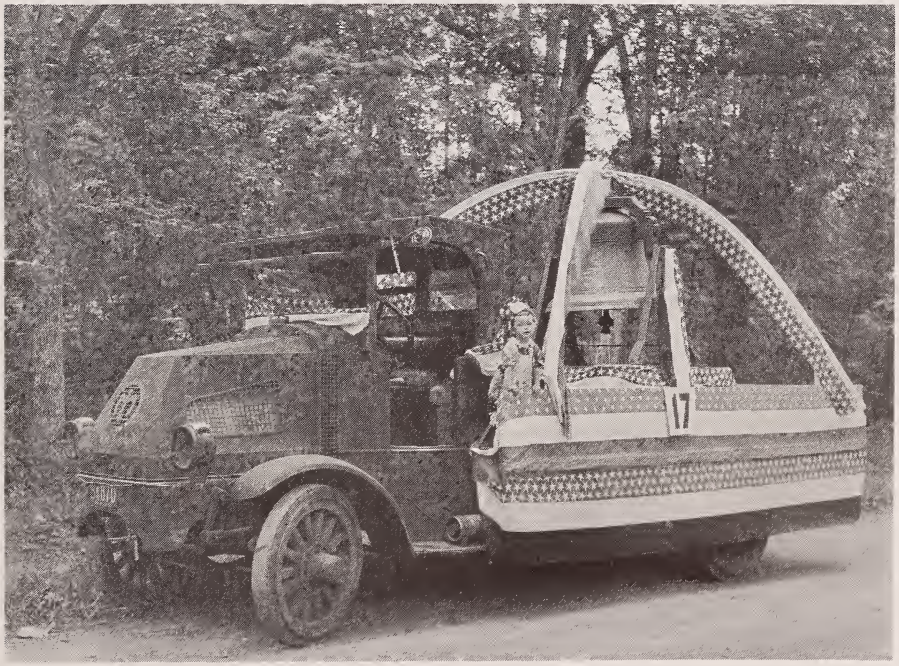
Lenox Memorial High School, Sept. 18, 1966

Grace Methodist Church, Lenoxdale

Eldorado, Lenoxdale



Tub Parade (1894)



Liberty Bell Parade (1923)

Old Grads

Class of 1909 at the Bowl

Walt Coakley, Walter Lewis, Joe Walsh (1925)

Elm Court

Ripley's Believe It or Not

Street Signs after 188 years

Business District Wiped Out; Blaze Spreads Through Town

By STUART C. AUERBACH

LENOX—Fifty years ago today the center of the Lenox business district was destroyed in a fire that killed six persons and did between $200,000 and $300,000 worth of damage.

Easter Sunday Morning

The fire is believed to have started by spontaneous combustion at about 1 a.m. Easter Sunday morning. At the time of the holocaust, other theories were set forth. A Pittsfield fire chief thought a defective chimney started the blaze and some persons believed burglars robbing Klipp's Jewelry Store set the fire to cover their tracks.

Because of the disaster, Lenox, which had never had a fire department, started a volunteer company. The present chief, Oscar R. Hutchinson, was named head of the company when it was formed June 21, 1909.

The Easter fire burned out an area bounded by Franklin Street on the north, Housatonic Street on the south, Church Street on the east and Main Street on the west.

The blaze started in the Clifford Block, the present site of the Clifford Lumber Co., Duffin's Hardware Store and Gift Gallery. It spread to the north and gutted the Mahanna Block, the only brick structure on the street. South of the Clifford Block, the Eddy Block — now used as a parking lot by William B. Bull Sons — was destroyed.

A shift in the wind from the southwest to the northwest saved the Lenox Library and the Curtis Hotel. Several parties of New York and Boston socialites were guests at the hotel for the Easter weekend.

firemen said the 10 minutes between Miss Mahanna's call and Selectman Stanley's call was used to round up a team of horses to pull the steamer.

Pittsfield sent a steamer, a hose wagon, 1,500 feet of hose and six men to the fire. Chief Thomas Hayden led the Lee apparatus up to Lenox. It took 30 minutes for the 50 men, two hosecarts, a steamer and 1,000 feet of hose to make the trip. The Richmond Fire Department also responded. The fire wasn't brought under control until 4 a.m.

Other Structures Damaged

Besides the three blocks destroyed on Main Street, the homes of Joseph Regnier and Mrs. Rose Colbert, a blacksmith shop, an ice stack and other small structures were burned. The homes of Mrs. Theodore Cowhig and Benjamin H. Rogers were badly damaged.

Joseph T. Cowhig recalls how a garden hose was played on the steaming roof of his mother's house—next to Gregory's Market—to keep it from catching fire. When the inch thick board that formed the sides of the ice stack burned, he remembers, the frozen layer of sawdust fell away from the piles of ice. But the ice didn't melt, Mr. Cowhig said.

Horses Set Free

Horses from livery stables in the area were let loose when the owners feared their stables would burn. Sydney W. Tillotson turned loose 60 horses without halters, Cowhig's Stables turned loose 12 and Timothy E. Mahanna a few more.

The next day Tillotson's horses were found scattered as far south as Great Barrington. Cowhig's horses were found near the present site of Pleasant Valley Bird Sanctuary. Others were located on October Mountain.

ACT OF GENERAL COURT, INCORPORATING TOWN OF LENOX

ANNO REGNI REGIS GEORGII TERTII SEAL SEPTIMO

AN ACT FOR Incorporating the Easterly part of the Town of Richmond in the County of BERKSHIRE into a District by the name of LENOX.

WHEREAS it has been represented to this Court that the Incorporating the Easterly part of the Town of Richmond in the County of Berkshire will greatly contribute to the growth thereof, and remedy many inconveniencies to which the inhabitants and proprietors nay otherwise be subjected.

Sec. 1. BE IT therefore Enacted by the Governor, Council and House of Representatives: That the inhabitants of the Easterly part of the Town of Richmond in the County of BERKSHIRE bounded as follows, Viz: Beginning at the Southwest corner of that part of said Town of Richmond formerly called Yokun Town, thence North by the needle to the Southwest corner of Lot Number Twenty in the second division in said Yokun Town, thence East eight degrees South to the Southeast corner of said lot, thence North nine degrees east to the Northeast corner of Lot Number Twenty One in said Second Division in said Yokun Town, thence North by the needle to the Northwest corner of Lot Number Forty Three in said Second Division thence east nine degrees south to the Southeast corner of the same lot, thence northerly to the northeast corner of Lot Number forty seven in said Division, which is in the dividing line between the Town of Pittsfield and said Town of Richmond, be and they hereby are incorporated into a separate District by the name of Lenox, and that the inhabitants thereof be vested with all the powers, privileges and immunities which the inhabitants of any Town in this Province do or by law, ought to enjoy, excepting only the privilege of sending a Representative to General Assembly; and that the inhabitants of said District shall have the liberty from time to time to join with the Town of Richmond in the choice of a Representative or Representatives, which representatives may be chosen indifferently from said Town or District, the pay or allowance of said Representative to be borne by said Town or District according to their respective proportions of the Province Tax, and that the Town of Richmond as often as they shall call a meeting for the choice of Representatives shall from time to time give seasonable notice to the Clerk of said District of Lenox for the time being of the time and place for holding said meeting to the end that the said District may join therein; and the Clerk of said District shall set up in some public place in said District a notification thereof accordingly; the Meeting for the choice of Representatives to be held alternately in the Town of Richmond and the said District, and to be regulated by the Selectmen of the Town or District where the meeting shall be held.

Sec. 2. And be it further Enacted that the lots lying east of the original dividing line between the proprietors of Yokun and Mount Ephriam, so called, notwithstanding they are not included in said district of Lenox, shall pay taxes toward building a meeting house in said District—til it is so far finished as the meeting house in Richmond now is—and settling a Minister in said District; and they shall be exempted from paying taxes towards settling a minister in the said Town of Richmond; and the said Town of Richmond shall not have any benefit of any of the public lands lying east of said original proprietary line.

Sec. 3. And be it further Enacted: That all assessment of rates and taxes agreed upon by said original proprietors shall be in full force, and may be levied, collected and applied, in like manner as if this Act had not been made.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, that William Williams, Esq. be and hereby is empowered to issue a Warrant to some principal inhabitant of said District of Lenox, requiring him to call a Meeting of said inhabitants, in order to chuse such officers as, by law, towns are empowered to chuse in the month of March, annually.

FEBRUARY 25, 1767 THIS BILL HAVING BEEN READ THREE SEVERAL TIMES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS PASSED TO BE ENACTED. (S) Thomas Chshing, Speaker

FEBRUARY 25, 1767 THIS BILL HAVING BEEN READ THREE SEVERAL TIMES IN COUNCIL, IS PASSED TO BE ENACTED. (S) A. Oliver, Secretary.

FEBRUARY 26, 1767 BY THE GOVERNOR. I CONSENT TO THE ENACTMENT OF THIS BILL. (S) FRA. BERNARD.

TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS
1767 — Bicentennial — 1967

Lenox, in the center of the Berkshire Hills, largely owes its history and development to its situation. Fear of Indian invasion and the trackless mountains proved a barrier to settlers from the east. It was not until 1750 that Jonathan Hinsdale, driven by a desire for solitude, Left the growing town of Hartford and built the first log cabin in these wilds. To his disappointment, other settlers from Connecticut followed.

When the French and Indian War ended, most of the families returned to their half-tilled fields. By 1762, a serious attempt at settlement was begun, when the General Court sold a tract of land including the present towns of Richmond and Lenox were included under the incorporated name of Richmond. This was only a year following the formation of Berkshire County from the great county of Hampshire. The central mountain range made the Township so unwieldy that on February 26th, 1767, the Act was passed for incorporating the Easterly part of the Town of Richmond into a district by the name of Lenox. The Act stated this would "remedy many inconveniences to which the inhabitants and proprietors may otherwise be subjected." The name was derived from the family name of the Duke of Lenox.

The Town nestled in the Beautiful Berkshire Hills has a history made up of four main periods: The Colonial and Revolutionary period and early industry, lime kilns, saw-mills, brickyards, paper mills and grist mills. Then followed the invasion of Hawthorne, other statesmen and writers.

During all of the great literary period the Courthouse and the Library remained the center of Berkshire life. Then by 1850 the rich and powerful Samuel Ward, American agent of Baring Brothers, London bankers, purchased and laid out a huge estate, north of Stockbridge Bowl, the first to be created here. Two brothers-in-law, W. H. Aspinwall and E. J. Woolsey, purchased large tracts covering a whole mountain back of the Church-on-the-Hill.

In the quarter century preceding 1880, twenty six more property holders were added. In place of the old New England stock, a remnant of which still survied, came the summer residents and the caretakers of the great estates. In the last two decades of the 19th Cntury the exodus of the Yankee farmer went on, and in place of the modest summer home of Colonial simplicity came the more stately type of villa and chalet. Then came the Greek, French, and Italian mansions of palatial architecture, and the Tudor and Elizabethan Halls. In these years the number of large estates increased to seventy five in all. Some of these are shown in this Historical Program for the Bicentennial. Symbolic of its high tide was the completion of the Aspinwall Hotel on the highest point of the ridge which runs down the center of the valley, rising above the pines like a yellow and white crown on the mountain. The hotel was a great thing for Lenox, and its loss by fire, April 25, 1931, was a catas-

trophe from which that part of the Town never recovered. This section of land has been bought by the Town, and is a part of the Lenox Park and Recreation system.

During all these changes visitors of discrimination were attracted to the Curtis Hotel, which in 1829 had replaced the Wilson House, built in 1773. The Registers of the Curtis contains the names of famous poets, generals, Presidents, Cabinet members, and diplomats from foreign courts. Some of these returned to take up summer residence in Lenox.

With the coming of the automobile the retrogression of the resort town set in. The heads of the old families were passing, the enactment of the 16th Amendment and the Income Tax made the young folk unable or unwilling to shoulder the responsibility for maintenance of a large estate. Shadowbrook set the pattern of what was going to become familiar. In 1922 it was sold to the Jesuit Order for a novitiate. In the following decades this trend continued with the establishment of the Lenox School for Episcopal Boys, Cranwell, Foxhollow, Windsor Mountain, and Bellefontaine.

More recently Hope Advent Christian College has been added to the year-round institutions of learning.

Three years after the Berkshire Symphonic Festival was organized by Miss Gertrude Robinson Smith in 1934, Miss Mary Tappan and her neice Mrs. Rosamunde Hepburn, presented their estate, Tanglewood, to the Boston Symphony Orchestra as a permanent home for the Festival. It was the vision of Serge Koussevitsky, the Conductor of that time, which has made the Festival the outstanding musical event of this country.

During the Second World War activities at Tanglewood continued on a small scale, but at the end of the War concerts were resumed in the Shed. The summer population is estimated at 7247, and the probable year round population is about 5000. This is not a startling growth from 1946, yet it has doubled in that time. Under normal conditions, the population growth is controlled by the ability to provide jobs, and this includes the year-round recreation and tourist facilities. Eastover has been remodelled into an all-season attraction, and parts of some estates have been divided into residential developments. The Lenox Machine Co. and the Van Zandt Co. have made significant improvements in Lenoxdale. Predictions for full employment at the General Electric plant in Pittsfield are favorable. Paper mills seem destined to expand their business facilities, and new housing will attract residences of a suburban nature when there are more sanitary sewers available. According to the last Town Report, the Master Plan study of Lenox will be completed during the bicentennial year. There is a regional planning board which should provide a great deal of help in the further development of Lenox. In its 200 years, Lenox has continued to prosper under the Town Meeting form of government. We have every reason to be proud of our past, and confident of our future.

THE LENOX COVENANT

"WHEREAS, the Parliament of Great Britain have of late undertaken to give and grant away our money without our knowledge or consent, and in order to compel us to a servile submission to the above measures, have proceeded to block up the harbor of Boston; also have or are about to vacate the Charter and repeal certain laws of this province, heretofore enacted by the General Court, and confirmed to us by the King and his predecessors; therefore, as a means to obtain a speedy redress of the above grievances, we do solemnly and in good faith covenant with each other—

First, That we will not import, purchase or consume or suffer any person for, by, or under us, to import purchase or consume in any manner whatever, any goods, wares or manufactures which shall arrive in America from Great Britain, from and after the first day of October next, or such other time as shall be agreed upon by the American Congress nor any goods which shall be ordered from thence from and after this day, until our charter and constitutional rights shall be restored, until it shall be determined by the major part of or brethren in this and the neighboring colonies that a non-importation agreement will not have a tendency to affect the desired result or end or until it shall be apparent that a non-importation or non consumption agreement will not be entered into by the majority of this and the neighboring colonies except such articles as the said general congress of North America shall advise to import and consume.

Secondly, We do further covenant and agree that we will observe the most strict obedience to all constitutional laws and authority, and will at all times exert ourselves to the utmost for the discouragement of all licentiousness and the suppression of all disorderly mobs and riots . . .

Thirdly, we will exert ourselves, as far within us lies, in promoting peace, love and unanimity among each other, and for that end we engage to avoid all unnecessary lawsuits whatever.

4thly, as a strict and proper adherence to the non-importation and non-consumption agreement will, if not seasonably provided against, involve us in many difficulties and inconveniences, we do promise and agree, that we will take the most prudent care for the raising of sheep, and for the manufacturing all such cloths as shall be most most useful and necessary, and also for the raising of flax, and the manufacturing of linen further, that we will, by every prudent method, endeavor to guard against all those inconveniences which might otherwise arise from the foregoing agreement.

5thly, That if any person shall refuse to sign this or any similar covenant, or after having signed it shall not adhere to the real meaning and intent thereof, he or they shall be treated by us with all the neglect they shall justly deserve, particularly by omitting all commercial dealing with them.

6thly, That if this or a similar covenant shall, after the first day of August next, be offered to any trader or shopkeeper, in this country, and he or they shall refuse to sign the same, for the space of forty-eight hours, that we will,

from henceforth, purchase no article of British manufacture or East India goods from him or them until such time as he or they shall sign this or a similar covenant."

Witness our hands, dated Lenox 14th day of July AD 1774.

Israel Dibbell
Samuel Guthrie
Lazarus Hollister
Moses Miller
Bildad Clark
Iared Ingersoll
Elisha Pangs
Moses Wood
John Adams
Amos Stanley
Timothy Wag
Jedediab Crittenden
Jesse Hollister
Thomas Steel
Oliver Belden
Caleb Hyde
John Patterson
Ephriam Smith
Edward Gray
Elias Willard
Allen Goodrich
Alexander Mackay
Thomas Landers
Abraham Northrup
Thomas Bateman
William Maltby
Luther Bateman

Israel Dewey
Isaiah Smith Jr.
Samuel Northrup
David Clark
Joel Goodrich
Joseph Hollister
Isaac Bateman
John Root
Prosper Post
Timothy Steel
Noah Yale
Mathias Hall
Silas Blinn
Paul Dewy
Elias Willard Jr.
Mathew Miller
Ashley Goodrich
Reuben Sheldon
James Guthrie
Jonathan Foster
William Walker
Samuel Whedon
Jonathan Hinsdale
William Martindale
Simon Willard
Caleb Bull
Samuel Bement

Lemuel Collens
Thomas Foster
Timothy Crittenden
Isaiah Smith
Titus Curtis
Thomas Tracy
Enos Curtis
Joseph Dwight
Rozel Ballard
Joel Blin
Moses Hyde
Charles Mattoon
Jehiel Hollister
James Richards
Ephriam Cary
Ebenezer Turrill
David Root
Jacob St. John
Daniel Keeler
Stephen Crittenden
David Hinsdell
Gorden Hillister
Amos Benton
Ephriam Hollister
Samuel Wright
Jeremiah Hull
Hehemiah Tracy

John Gray
Samuel Goodrich
Zenas Goodrich
Reuben Root
Elijah Northrup
Samuel Muuson
David Clark Jr.
Eleazer Barrett
Rufus Branch
Solomon Hollister
Job St Leonard
Uriah Cress
Thomas Gates
Samuel Jerome
Thomas Benelict
Charles Dibbell
Gershom Martindale
Titus Parker
Ashbel Treat
James Richards Jr.
Stephen Titus
Asa Bacon
Hopson Beebe
Caleb Culver
Samuel Pond
Elisha Osborn
David Perry
Enos Stone

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THE NEW ENGLAND MIND

The New England Mind has found expression in two different Lenox Organizations. One of them of course, is the Shakespeare Club, which sponsored this Historical Book and Program.

This allows good men to entertain the hope, that separated from politics and the pursuit of the buck, from the melting pot in which we now dwell, we shall be permitted to mingle prophets, patriarchs and apostles who have shone in former times as the servants of God and benefactors of men and women.

So don't let it be forgot that there was once in Lenox an organization, which might be called the illustrious predecessor of the fine Shakespeare Club.

Such was the Lyceum Club.

From the EAGLE of January 13, 1841.

The Lyceum was addressed by the Rev. Doctor Shepard.

After noticing in general terms, a number of topics that might with propriety be discussed on such an occasion, the lecturer proceeded to discourse more at large upon the superior pleasure that a man of cultivated mind experiences over the progress that has been made in the Arts, Sciences, Education, Government, Ethics, etc. the honorable part borne by our own country men in this advancement, and adverting to the influence that the Bible had in forming our Government. That the human mind being the only thing that comes unfinished from the hands of the Creator, although containing the elements of perfection, needs unceasing attention, would we have it attain the sublime elevation of which it is susceptible. Animadverting upon the disposition of many to seek for the showy and unsubstantial ornaments of learning, without obtaining those useful and necessary parts that lie at the foundation of mental cultivation; like one who having a glimpse of the superstructure of an edifice, admires and determines to build one like it, without regard to the foundation on which it rests and for want of which it ultimately falls. That we have improved upon the systems of Education in Europe by divesting it of much of its tedious minuteness; for by having what is known condensed and properly classified we sooner become aquainted with all that is essential. So much is already known that he who makes himself fully acquainted with all is not likely to have much time left for making new discoveries. As the scientific architect makes use of the labor of the ignorant in collecting and bringing together the materials for most beautiful structures, so by means of printing, the experience and experiments of common minds are collected and preserved. That it is characteristic of the age to subject the discoveries in science to a rigid course of experiment. That after all, the science most essential to the well being of man and which has improved as much as any other since the time of the Ancient Philosophers is Moral Philosophy."

TOWN OF LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

1767 -- Bicentennial -- 1967

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Charles F. House, Chairman

William D. Roche	George J. Bisacca
Mary Jane Bender, Deputy	Julia E. Conklin, Secretary
James H. Pelton	Anthony Fiorini
Helen Mac Donald	Mary Mac Donald
Anna E. Mitchell	Joseph E. Martin

ASSOCIATE COMMITTEES

Historical Souvenir and Program	Coletta Holmes
	William L. Hallowell
	Horace Harding
Marshall of Parade	George J. Bisacca
Finance	Donald R. Grody
	Harold E. Humphrey
Floats	Louis Nejame
First Day Covers	William J. Leary
	Joseph H. Nolan
First Town Meeting	George E. Mole
Bicentennial Ball	Edward G. Conklin
	Alexander T. Halpin
Religious Heritage Days	All Ministers
Flower Show	Anna R. Alexandre
School System	Raymond L. Trabold
History of Lenox	David H. Wood
Bicentennial Plates	Marion R. Hollingsworth
Business	J. P. Kimball

COVER DESIGN—Past Selectman
Charles G. Stanley